

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 150-2004



To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: June 17, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez *JMG*
City Manager

Subject: BURGLARIES ON NORTH BAY ROAD

The purpose of this LTC is to respond to an e-mail sent to each of you from Bill Farkas and Beth Dunlop, residents at 5851 North Bay Road, regarding recent burglaries that have taken place along North Bay Road. A copy of their e-mail is attached.

The Police Department has increased the uniform patrol presence in the area as well as assigning plain clothes detectives in unmarked cars for additional surveillance. The motorcycle units will also be conducting enhanced traffic enforcement in the neighborhood.

The investigations thus far of the recent burglaries have produced fingerprints which have been matched to a possible subject who lives in the North District of our city. Probable cause exists for this subject's arrest and detectives are actively attempting to locate him. Wanted Person Flyers have been distributed to all Police officers. This subject may be responsible for at least two burglaries in the area and possibly more.

The Police Department will continue to saturate the area with all available resources until the subject or subjects are apprehended.

If you need any additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Police Chief Don De Lucca.

JMG\DWD\tr

Attachment

c: Beth Dunlop and Bill Farkas, 5851 N. Bay Road

f/cmgr/\$all/ltc04/burglaries in north beach

RECEIVED
04 JUN 21 PM 12:26
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
1:06 pm

Walters, Pauline

Subject: FW: burglaries on Upper North Bay Road

5851 N Bay Road
Miami Beach Florida 33140

12 June 2004

To Mayor David Dermer, Commissioners Matti Bower, Saul Gross, Simon Cruz, Jose Smith, Luis Garcia, Richard Steinberg, and City Manager Jorge Gonzalez:

Since May 17, we have been the victims of a home invasion burglary and an attempted burglary both in the middle of the day. The home invasion was particularly heinous and scary as our son, home on his summer vacation from Yale, was asleep in his bed while the burglars broke in. The burglars were in the house when my husband, Bill Farkas, came home for to take him to an appointment with an oral surgeon.

We are not the only victims of noontime burglaries on North Bay Road; I know of at least two others, and I'm told that there have been as many as six burglaries or attempts just on Upper North Bay Road in the last month or so. This is both scary and intolerable.

I am writing to request that there be at least one and preferably two or more decoy cars placed on the "dry side" of the street.

I would also request that a police patrol be assigned to this neighborhood during the lunch hour, approximately 10:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. (or so). Let me point out that in one burglary-at 5619 North Bay Road, the home of Robert and Charlotte Barrett-not only was a window that is visible from the street smashed in, but also the burglars backed a car or truck up to the front door and IN PLAIN VIEW OF THE STREET emptied dresser drawers and desk drawers into the vehicle, which-I reiterate-had been backed up across the lawn to the front door. A patrolman cruising the street (or walking it or riding a bike up and down) would have noticed this. Further, the burglars then left the front door wide open (it was discovered by the mail delivery person an hour or two later).

I realize that the police are pulled in many directions, but these are specific, identifiable threats to people and property. I work at home, and am frequently in the house alone. Now I do so with the alarm on, in midday, and with a nervous knot in my stomach. This is no way to live. Also, our son is away on a study program now but will be back in July to work (last summer he was an unpaid interim with Graham Winick in the city film office, as well as with GenArt, plus he had a paid job at The Frieze) and is likely to be home, sometimes alone, in the mornings.

Right now, we are afraid to go to the grocery store midday. I am scared to leave for interviews or appointments. As I said, I am fearful of being home alone in the middle of the day, but I am also fearful of leaving the house because I believe we are being watched. I cannot take a midday swim, or work in the garden without anxiety, a vision of criminals bursting into my yard and causing me harm. We are worried about going on vacation and leaving our house, even with an alarm system in operation.

There is an enormous amount of new construction along the street (as you know, I'd rather the old houses were there than these new ones, but that's another story), and the contractors hire without background checks or any way to trace the workers (paid in cash, etc.). This puts us in peril. I would hope that-since obviously we can't keep the criminals off our streets with so much construction-that we could at least provide police protection for the law abiding citizens who live in Miami Beach's fine neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Beth Dunlop and
Bill Farkas

5851 N Bay Road
Miami Beach FL 33140

305 861-7881

ps Your sister was the sketch artist who sat with my husband after the first burglary!

6/17/2004